

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving and transporting electrical energy, comprising:
 - a storage device formed from a plurality of storage elements; and
 - a vehicle configured to carry the storage device and having a connection for receiving electrical energy from an external source and for transmitting electrical energy from the storage device to an external load, wherein the storage device is arranged as a payload for the vehicle and in the receiving and transmitting of the electrical energy the storage device remains arranged as a payload for the vehicle. load; and
 - a monitoring device configured to monitor a number of charge/discharge cycles for each storage element and output a corresponding notification when a determined number of cycles is reached.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage elements comprise accumulators.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the plurality of storage elements are combined to form storage device groups.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
fixed stations for charging up and discharging the storage device.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the fixed stations comprise:

intermediate storage devices for intermediate storage of the electrical energy.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: at least one electrical collective connection for a plurality of storage elements.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: at least one opening in each storage element for introducing or draining off a fluid.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising one or more collecting conduits which connect the openings of the storage elements together.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the collecting conduit opens into a container on board the vehicle.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein the monitoring device is configured to indicate an operating condition of at least one of individual storage elements or storage device groups.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein the monitoring device is arranged on board the vehicle.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein the monitoring device includes at least a microprocessor and a memory.

15.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of storing and transporting electrical energy by means of a vehicle carrying an electrical storage device as a payload, the storage device having a plurality of storage elements, comprising the steps of:

- receiving electrical energy from a source external to the vehicle;
- charging the storage device with the received electrical energy;
- transporting the vehicle to a destination;
- discharging the storage device at the destination;
- draining a fluid contained in the storage device after charging of the electrical energy into the storage device but prior to transport of the storage device to the destination;
- introducing a fluid into the storage device after transport of the storage device to the destination but prior to removal of the electrical energy fluid;
- monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles for each storage ~~element~~;
- element of the storage device; and
- outputting a corresponding notification when a predetermined number of cycles is reached.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage elements comprise capacitors.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: fixed stations for converting the electrical energy.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: a device for controlling a charging/discharging operation.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: a device for supplying or removing fluid.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a device for controlling the charging/discharging operation and for supplying or removing fluid.

25. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:

means for storing electrical energy received from an external source at a first location, wherein the means for storing electrical energy is arranged as a payload for the vehicle;
and

means for discharging the stored electrical energy at a second ~~location~~ location;
and

means for monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles for individual storage elements of the means for storing and outputting a corresponding notification when a determined number of cycles is reached.

26. (New) The method as set forth in claim 19 further comprising:

cleaning the drained fluid; and

storing the cleaned fluid.

27. (New) The method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising removing a container of storage device fluid from the vehicle.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the storage device is arranged as a payload for the vehicle and in the receiving and transmitting of the electrical energy the storage device remains arranged as a payload for the vehicle